Application No.: 09/841,124

Docket No.: 21994-00021-US

On page 12, please replace the paragraph from lines 16-21 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view of the tongues 3a and 3b of the neck portion 3 towards the direction parallel to the Z axis. The protrusions 80a and 80b are formed above the protrusions 33a0 and 33b0 of the upper holding portions 33a and 33b as also shown in Fig. 3.

On page 12, please replace the paragraph from line 22 through page 13, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the tongues 3a and 3d of the neck portion 3 shown in Fig. 4 where the clamp band 5 and the magnetic rings 10 and 11 are inserted on the neck portion 3. In Fig. 5, the bottom portion side of the clamp band 5 abuts edges 80a1s and 80b1s when the clamp band 5 is inserted in the neck portion 3. The slope 80a1 and 80b1 are formed in higher positions than the slope surfaces 33a2 and 33b2.

On page 14, please replace the paragraph from line 28 through page 15, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Consequently, even when the tongues 3a through 3d flex, the magnetic rings 10, 11, 20 and 21 do not contact the edge surfaces 33a1 and 33b1 of the upper holding portions 33a and 33b, but contact the edge surfaces 33a4 and 33b4. This is a simple and easy way to attach the magnetic rings 10, 11, 20 and 21 on the neck portion 3. In addition, the magnetic rings 10, 11, 20 and 21 will not break since they do not contact the edge surfaces 33a1 and 33b1.

On page 16, please delete line 22 in its entirety.

On page 17, please delete line 4 in its entirety: